

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 240373

10
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:WPKELLY:MJK
APPROVED BY EUR:MR.LOWENSTEIN
EUR/IB:MR.SMITH
S/S:WHLUERS
S/S-O:P.P.SARROS

----- 071218

P R 010206Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T STATE 240373

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y: OMISSION OF REF C) AND D)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, US
SUBJ: AZORES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

REF: A) STATE 234765
B) PONTA DELGADA 183
C) STATE 116770
D) LISBON A-101 8/28/74
(E) PONTA DELGADA 90

1. DEPT OFF MET WITH NUNO VASCO CABRAL DA CAMARA
ON OCTOBER 30 (REF A) TO HEAR HIS VIEWS ON AZORES
INDEPENDENCE, SUBSTANCE THAT CONVERSATION IS SUMMARIZED
BELOW.

2. AZORES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT. CAMARA EXPLAINED THAT
MOVEMENT WHICH HE REPRESENTS IS SEMI-CLANDESTINE
ORGANIZATION BASED ON SAO MIGUEL BUT WITH CONTACTS
SIMILAR GROUPS ON OTHER ISLANDS. MOVEMENT'S CENTRAL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 240373

DIRECTORATE CONSISTS OF SEVEN MEN (CAMARA INCLUDED)

EACH OF WHOM HAS DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A SUB-GROUP OF THREE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WHO, IN TURN, SERVE AS LEADERS FOR ADDITIONAL FOUR-MAN SUB-GROUPS. TOTAL CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IN THIS CELL STRUCTURE IS 91.

3. OBJECTIVES. CAMARA SAID THAT AZORES HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN VICTIMS OF LISBON'S NEGLECT AND OF DISCRIMINATORY ECONOMIC POLICIES. CAMARA SAID THAT AZORES TAX REVENUES

AND CUSTOMS RECEIPTS SENT TO LISBON AMOUNT TO 1.5 MILLION CONTOS ANNUALLY. IN RETURN, AZORES RECEIVE ONLY 500 THOUSAND CONTOS IN THE FORM OF "LISBON-FINANCED" PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. WHEN PRESSED TO ELABORATE, CAMARA REPLIED THAT HE WAS FEARFUL OF BEING DISCOVERED WITH DETAILS OF SUCH INFORMATION WHEN HE LEFT THE AZORES AND THUS WAS SPEAKING "OFF THE TOP OF HIS HEAD." CAMARA WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS MOVEMENT WAS CONVINCED OF THE INEVITABILITY OF A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN PORTUGAL, THAT THE AZORES HAD NO USE FOR EITHER FACISM OR COMMUNISM AND THAT INDEPENDENCE -- WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE U.S. -- WAS THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR THE ISLANDS. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY FOR U.S. SUPPORT.

4. U.S. RESPONSE. DEPTOFF MADE IT CLEAR TO CAMARA THAT U.S. IS UNPREPARED TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN AZORES INDEPENDENCE AND THAT WE DO NOT SHARE CAMARA'S ANALYSIS RE INEVITABILITY OF COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN PORTUGAL. DEPTOFF ASSURED CAMARA OF U.S. APPRECIATION OF SENSITIVITY OF HIS MEETING WITH US AND PROMISED RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE CONTACT. DEPTOFF EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. NEITHER SUPPORTS NOR OPPOSES INDEPENDENCE FOR THE AZORES BUT RATHER TAKES POSITION THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GOP AND PEOPLES OF THE ISLANDS. DEPTOFF QUESTIONED (RHETORICALLY) THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE AMONG POPULATION OF AZORES. CAMARA DID NOT GIVE SPECIFIC REPLY.

5. FOR PONTA DELGADA. WE DO NOT WISH TO CONVEY IMPRESSION OF MEDDLING IN PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY SUPPORTING

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 240373

--OR APPEARING TO SUPPORT--INDEPENDENCE FOR THE AZORES. YOUR CONTACTS WITH CAMARA ARE, HOWEVER, USEFUL TO US IN UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL DYNAMICS OF THE ISLANDS. WITHIN PARAMETERS THIS AND REFTELS, YOU MAY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN DISCRETE CONTACT WITH CAMARA AND OTHERS. THE OBJECTIVE OF THESE CONTACTS SHOULD BE TO ACQUIRE INFORMATION, NOT TO IMPLY U.S. INTEREST AND/OR SUPPORT. IN EVERY CASE ASIDE FROM UNAVOIDABLE SOCIAL ENCOUNTERS, INITIATIVE

FOR SUCH CONTACT SHOULD COME FROM THE AZOREANS.

6. PLEASE REPORT ALL SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH
CAMARA AND/OR OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE INDEPENDEN-
CE MOVEMENT TO BOTH LISBON AND WASHINGTON BY SECRET/EXDIS
CABLE OR MEMCON. INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AZORES, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE240373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WPKELLY:MJK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740312-1029
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741178/aaaacomq.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A) STATE 234765
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <30 MAY 2002 by rowelle0, 3.4.X1, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <14 MAR 2003 by smithrj>; APPROVED <14 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AZORES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, US
To: PONTA DELGADA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005